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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 24 Aug 51

SUBJECT Conditions in Seoul during the Second Communist Occupation

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1. Although the people of Seoul had been assured by President Rhee that the city would not be abandoned again, they were ordered on 3 January 1951 by the mayor of the city to cross the Han River as soon as possible. As a long line of refugees was crossing the river at dawn on 4 January, a United Nations plane flew overhead broadcasting and dropping handbills to warn that those Koreans who were found crossing the river would be shot.
2. This announcement angered the civilians, who felt that the United Nations did not care for the welfare of the people. About 30 refugees who were returning to Seoul from an attempt to cross the Han River were strafed and killed by United Nations planes. This incident caused much disturbance among ROK supporters, who felt that they were considered worthless by the military command and could not trust their own government for protection.
3. When the Chinese Communists entered Seoul, they searched and questioned the residents who had remained, particularly with regard to men eligible for military service, and went through the unoccupied houses and confiscated all valuable goods.* On 25 January 1951 the block people's committees made a general census. On 10 February officials visited homes to list the names of children of school age. Instances were reported in late February of North Koreans arresting and threatening women who refused to reveal the location of male relatives who had formerly lived in North Korea or who had belonged to anti-Communist groups in the south.
4. During the occupation, the Chinese Communists often searched private homes at night. When Chinese soldiers were billeted for a time in a private home, they required the women of the household to cook for them, although they brought their own rice and often left money for the service. The Chinese appeared to be in bad condition regarding both food and weapons, in contrast to the numerous North Korean military and civilian personnel in Seoul who were well-fed in appearance.

25X1A Comment. For previous reports on the second Communist occupation of Seoul, see [redacted] and referenced reports.

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CLASSIFICATION

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